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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

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H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06 L-03
PM-09 PA-02 INRE-00 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 094 W
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O R 102356Z AUG 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5049
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE / TELEGRAM

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 5932

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINTS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: HOMILY FOR AUGUST 9

1. SUMMARY. IN HIS HOMILY FOR AUGUST 8 BISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS LABELED WEALTH AND PRIVATE PROPERTY AS FALSE IDOLS WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE EXALTATION OF POWER, DO GREAT DAMAGE TO THE COUNTRY. HE ALSO REQUESTED THE RELEASE OF TWO INDIVIDUALS DETAINED BY THE SECURITY FORCES. FINALLY, HE READ EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER FROM FATHER ROBERTO TORRUELLA IN WHICH THE CLERIC DEFENDED HIMSELF AGAINST CHARGES OF OPERATING A GUERRILLA SAFE HOUSE (SEPTEL). END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE HOMILY FOR AUGUST 8 WAS DELIVERED BY APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR ARTURO RIVERA Y DAMAS IN SAN SALVADOR'S METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL. SOME OF HIS REMARKS FOLLOW.

3. RIVERA DECRIED THE EXALTATION OF WEALTH AND PRIVATE PROPERTY, LABELING SUCH THEM AS "FALSE IDOLS". HE ADDED THAT THESE "IDOLS", TOGETHER WITH THE XALTATION OF POWER, DAMAGE THE COUNTRY AND "SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES." HE ADDED THAT THE MEANS TO COUNTERACT THESE IDEAS WAS NOT THROUGH THE STRIDENCY RECOMMENDED BY MONSIGNOR ROMERO, BUT THROUGH A FAITH AND SPIRIT THAT "ASPIRES TO THE SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY RATHER THAN OBTAINING FROM THE COMMUNITY."

4. RIVERA WENT ON TO REQUEST THE LIBERATION OR THE TRANSFER TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES OF TWO DETAINEES, JOSE SEBASTIAN MONGE SOLIS AND DR. RENE AUGUSTO URBINA. HE ADDED THE FAMILIES OF THE TWO MEN HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THEM FROM THE AUTHORITIES. RIVERA ALSO QUOTED FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY FATHER ROBERTO TORRUELLA CONCERNING THE DISCOVERY OF A GUERRILLA ARSENAL IN A HOUSE OWNED BY THE CLERIC (SEPTEL). IN THE LETTER, TORRUELLA STATED THAT THOUGH HE DID OWN THE DWELLING HE HAD NEVER LIVED THERE, AND THAT HE HAD NEVER MET THE PRESENT TENANT, ONE JOSE BENJAMIN CUELLAR MARTINEZ, WHOSE TENANCY HAD BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH A RENTAL AGENCY. TORRUELLA'S LETTER ALSO INDICATED THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO CLARIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE.
BLEAKLEY

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